

Appl. No.: 10/759,630
Reply to Office Action of: April 18, 2005

In the Specification:

Please replace the Title of the invention with the following amended title:

--Continuous Ribbon For A Cable Connector--

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 4, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 shows an end portion of a ribbon cable 1, which has conductive traces 2, which are surrounded by an electrically insulating layer 3. The conductive traces 2 are insulated along most of the length of the ribbon cable 1, but are exposed in a contact portion 52. The ends of the conductive traces 2 are embedded in an end strip 4. The end strip 4 ~~which~~ also comprises the ~~isolating~~ insulating layer 3. The ribbon cable 1 has holes 5, which are positioned between the conductive traces 2, in the insulating layer 3.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 9, line 6 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 7 shows a continuous ribbon 18 with ~~[[a]]~~ first and ~~[[a]]~~ second continuous part plates 57, 58. The first and second part plates 57, 58 are mutually connected on their leading edges by a continuous connecting piece 59. The first and the second continuous part plates 57, 58 comprise a plurality of integral part plates corresponding to part plates 7, 8 in Figure 1. Individual connectors 6 may be formed by severing the continuous ribbon 18 at a length corresponding to the width of a particular ribbon cable 1. The continuous ribbon 18 can be cut corresponding to the existing ribbon cable 1 into portions of differing widths, as shown in Figure 7. In this manner, differing widths of the connector 6 can be manufactured from the continuous ribbon 18. The continuous ribbon 18 can for example be prefabricated in the form of long ribbon portions or in the form of a reeled continuous ribbon. Individual connectors 6 may be separated

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from the continuous ribbon 18 during manufacture of the connector 6 as a function of the width of the ribbon cable 1 to be connected. The continuous ribbon 18 therefore provides an advantageous pre-product for the manufacture of a connector 6 for a ribbon cable 1. As a rule, however, connectors are manufactured individually with fixed numbers of pins, i.e. a fixed number of conductive traces.

Please replace the paragraph starting on page 10, line 17 with the following amended paragraph as requested by the Examiner:

Figure 9 shows the mating connector [14] 24 with an inserted connector 6, the slider 19 being in the closed position. In the closed position the slider 19 is inserted further into the housing 21. When inserting the connector 6 into the slider 19, the guide webs 16 are pushed into the second guide grooves 23. This determines the orientation of the connector 6. In the practical example shown, the connector 6 is narrower than the insertion opening 20. By the provision of the guide webs 16 and of the second guide grooves 23, the position of the connector 6 is determined in a position flush with the left of the insertion opening. This determines the position of the connector 6 which is too narrow. This determines that the contact elements 26 on the left side of the mating connector 24 come into contact. If a 6-pin connector is inserted into an 8-pin mating connector, for example, it is determined that the six contact elements counting from the left side come into contact with the connector 6. However, normally the connector 6 is as wide as the insertion opening 20.